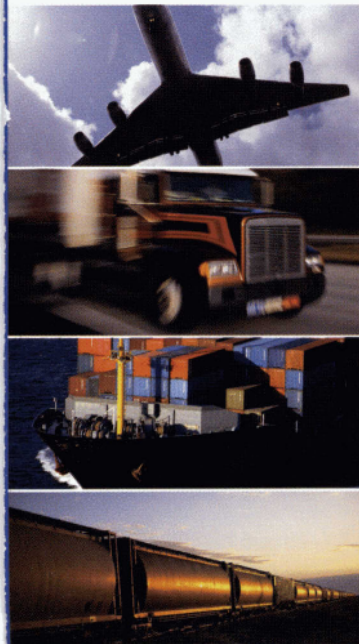




F R E I G H T
Professional Development



*Building a
Freight
Professional
Development
Program in the
21st Century*



Serving Our Customers

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Office of Freight Management and Operations launched the FPD Program in response to the growing need for freight transportation expertise in states and metropolitan areas. Several factors have heightened interest in freight professional development, including increasing freight traffic, an inadequate number of staff devoted to freight, and a lack of understanding of the transportation planning process in both the public and private sectors.

The FPD Program assists state departments of transportation (DOTs) and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in developing the skills and knowledge needed to meet the challenges facing freight transportation today and in the near future. The efficient movement of goods is dependent, in large part, on the people who build, maintain, and operate the freight transportation system. *Educating and training a skilled and knowledgeable workforce is crucial to improving freight transportation productivity, safety, and security.*

A series of customer focus group meetings were held to determine what you, our customer, wanted and needed in an FPD Program. Your input helped identify and prioritize FPD products and services to be delivered in 2004 and beyond.



Developing Skills

The FPD Program offers short courses and seminars on a broad range of freight topics, such as incorporating freight in the transportation planning process and forecasting freight demand. These courses are offered through the National Highway Institute on a first-come, first-served basis. For those who cannot attend the full course, the Planning Technical Service Team at FHWA's Resource Center offers summaries of course presentations.

Sharing Information

The FPD Web site provides the latest resources and information on freight transportation. Information is available on freight courses and academic programs, technical assistance services, best practices, and technologies.

The FPD Web site is home to the FPD Resource Library. The Resource Library is an easy-to-use searchable database that allows users to target resources by topic. Please visit the FPD Web site at www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd for all your freight information needs.

Another way to share information is to tune in to the "Talking Freight" seminars, which are held monthly via teleconference and the Internet. The Freight Planning Peer Exchange Listserv (www.fhwa.dot.gov/freightplanning) is another venue for exchanging information among public and private freight transportation professionals.



Providing Assistance

The FPD Program uses 21st Century technologies to provide technical assistance to state DOTs and MPOs in freight transportation planning and development. Technical assistance is offered through a variety of formats and on a broad range of topics. The FPD Program offers workshops, develops data analytical tools, promotes data standards, and works with freight professionals on specific projects or needs. The FPD Web site provides information on FPD technical assistance services and products.

Promoting Freight Transportation Education in Academic Institutions

The FPD Program works with the academic community to promote freight transportation programs in academic institutions. Although there are many transportation degree programs available, our customer assessments indicate that freight-specific courses and degree programs are limited. Moreover, transportation-planning programs are overwhelmingly focused on passenger demand modeling, and logistics programs are primarily geared to the private sector. Please visit the Resource Library, located on the FPD Web site, for information on freight-oriented academic programs offered by colleges and universities throughout the United States.



To Learn More About the FPD Program

Please visit the FPD Web site at
www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd

or contact

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